THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 5th August 1955.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I must tell the House that to-day only 45 minutes will be devoted to questions and answers. This is the decision of the Business Advisory Committee. I hope hon. Members will not raise a point of order later on on this matter."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" இன்றையதினம் 60 கேள்விகள்போடப் பட்டிருக்கின்றன. ஆனால் அதற்கு 45 நிமிஷங்கள் ஒதுக்கி இருப்பதாகச் சொல்லுகிறீர்களே, இந்த அவகாசம் போதுமா என்று கேட்க விரும்புகிறேன்."

MR. SPEAKER :—" நிறைய கேள்விக்கு பதில் வந்திருக்கின்றன. அதனால் கேள்விகளை சீக்கிரத்தில முடித்து விட்டால் நல்லதாக இருக்குமென்று தோன்றுகின்றது. அதனால்தான் 45 நிமிஷத்தில் முடித்து விடுவதாக உத்தேசம்.

" They must see the light of day.

" Now let us take question No. 1928-G postponed from yesterday's Agenda."

Municipal elections.

* 1928-G *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state when the Government are going to conduct municipal elections?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" In the normal course, the ordinary elections to the municipal councils in the State will be held in August-September of this year."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government are going to adopt the marking system in these elections or the system followed during the last General Elections? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" The Government will adopt the marking system which we have adopted in the district board elections."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, this matter was the subject of so many interpellations in the Assembly inasmuch as that system had invalidated more than five lakhs of votes in the district board elections and the Government had promised to consider the question in the light of the points raised. Now, the

marking system has been objected to by the district board and municipalities of Malabar which are also controlled by Congressmen. That being so, may I know why the Government have not only not rectified their mistake but have also extended it to the municipal elections? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Sir, after a thorough examination, the Government have decided to have the marking system."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" The Hon. Minister was too fast while replying. I would request him to kindly repeat it a bit slowly."

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" In the normal course, ordinary elections to municipal councils in this State will be held in August-September of this year."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, while not being afraid of facing elections to the municipalities, may I know why the Government are hurrying through these elections even though the municipalities and for instance the Corporation of Madras, have suggested to the Government to bifurcate some of the unwieldy divisions in the City of Madras like Kodambakkam which comprises 8 square miles and has 38,000 voters? In the face of such requests, may I know why the Government rush through these elections? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" The term of municipalities will expire on 1st November 1955 and so we have to hold elections now. As for the other points raised by the hon. Member, they will all be examined by the Government."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the other thing has also to be borne in mind. The general elections will in the ordinary course, have to be held during December 1956. If we do not have the municipal elections this year, they will have to be postponed by two years. That is why we want to finish the municipal elections as early as possible."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Sir, it has been brought to our notice and it has also been demonstrated in the Pondicherry elections that the ballot boxes could be tampered with. So, may I know whether our Government have taken sufficient care to see that our ballot boxes are not tampered with? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" There are lots of demonstrations going on in Pondicherry, but they have nothing to do with our State."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" ஸார், ஜில்லா போர்ட் தேர்தலில் குறி போடும் முறைப்படி வோட்டுகள் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டபோது எவ்வளவோ விளைவுகள் நேர்ந்ததைப் பார்த்தோம். அப்படியிருந்தும் முனிசிபல் தேர்தலிலும் அதே முறையை வற்புறுத்துவதன் அவசியம் என்ன என்பதை அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

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THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" இதைவிட சிறந்த வேறு முறை இல்லை என்பதுதான் அரசாங்கத்தினுடைய நோக்கம்."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" As the marking system is a *fait accompli*, is it not a training ground for voters to be trained upwards, in this method by prescribing the system for all voting in small elections? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" The hon. Member may repeat his question, Sir."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the existing system of fixing the symbol to the ballot boxes has been found to be the lesser of the evils and has been retained in respect of the highest elections in our country, viz., elections to the Parliament and Assembly. That being so, may I know why more sanctity should be attached to the marking system in the municipal elections and why the Government consider it safer than the other system? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the marking system was tried in the district board elections and no doubt many votes became invalid since the people did not know how to mark on the ballot paper. But we want to try that system in a more enlightened constituency where there is greater literacy and want to see whether there is any inherent defect in the system itself or whether it is simply because of the ignorance of the people it has failed. After trying it in the Madras City, we may be able to take a final decision in the matter of adopting it for other elections also."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" ஜில்லா போர்ட் தேர்தலில் இந்த முறையை உபயோகித்த காலத்தில் மிகப் பெரிய அளவில் செல்லுபடியாகாத வோட்டுகள் பதிவு ஆனது எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். படித்தவர்கள் அங்கு அநேகமாக இல்லாததால் அப்படி நேர்ந்தது என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் அசெம்பிளியில் கூறியிருக்கிறார். நகரங்களில் படித்தவர்களின் எண்ணிக்கை அதிகமாக இருக்கலாம். ஆனால் நகரங்களிலும் படியாதவர்களுடைய எண்ணிக்கை அதிகமாக இருந்து வருகிறது. இங்கு வோட்டுகள் செல்லுபடியாகாமல் போகாது. கிராமப்புரங்களில் நடப்பது போல் மீண்டும் செல்லுபடியாகாத வோட்டுகள் பதிவ ஆகவேண்டும் என்பதற்காக இந்த முறையையே கையாளவேண்டும் என்பது அரசாங்கத்தினுடைய நோக்கமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" நகரங்களில் படியாதவர்கள் இருந்தும்கூட நகரங்களிலும், சென்னையிலும் இருக்கக்கூடியவர்கள் அதிகப்படியாக விஷயங்களைத் தெரிந்தவர்கள். விஷயத்தைப் புரிந்துகொண்டு நகரங்களில் வோட்டுக்களைப் பதிவு செய்வார்கள் என்று நாங்கள் நம்புகிறோம். நகரத்தில் பார்த்த பிறகு அதைப் பற்றி ஒரு முடிவுக்கு வர ஏதுவாக இருக்கும்."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister for Finance aware of the fact that the electoral rolls for the City of Madras and as a matter of fact for the other municipalities also have not been brought up to date? For instance, the electoral rolls now available have been brought up to only 1952. On a former occasion, the Hon. Minister gave an assurance to the House that the electoral rolls would be made up to date for the City of Madras and after that

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only elections would be ordered. May I know why the Government should have gone back on their assurance? May I also know whether the Hon. Minister will take steps to bring these electoral rolls up to date before the elections? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" With reference to the preparation of electoral rolls, we depend upon the electoral rolls prepared for the Assembly and for that a programme is laid down by the Election Commission and we have followed that programme. We cannot lay down our own programme. They have laid down a programme of intensive revision for certain areas and have issued correction slips for certain other areas. We have to follow the procedure laid down by the Election Commission. If there is any defect, I should think we have to put up with it."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, when you said that only 45 minutes would be allotted for questions and answers, you did not explain why it was so. The Members are asking me what it is about and they are also anxious to know whether the discussion on the Governor's Address will be over this forenoon."

MR. SPEAKER :—" To-day being Friday, the House will sit only till 1 o'clock. In order to give sufficient time to the hon. Leader of the Opposition and the Hon. Leader of the House, the Business Advisory Committee came to the conclusion that we should have the question time only for 45 minutes."

Teaching of Hindi in Government institutions in Pudukottai.

* 1929 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that before merger, the Pudukottai State Government permitted the staff of Government institutions to teach Hindi free in addition to their teaching work and also placed Government buildings free of charge at the disposal of the staff for the abovementioned purpose;

(*b*) whether such permission is now continued by the post-merger Government; and

(*c*) if not, why?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) There is no authentic information on the point. From the records it is gathered, that an Assistant Lecturer of the Raja's College, Pudukottai, was permitted by the Durbar to hold Hindi classes in the Brahadambal High School without detriment to the regular working of the school.

" (*b*) The permission granted in the individual case is being continued.

" (*c*) Does not arise."